

Message Text

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SUBJECT: JUNE 15 PRESS ROUNDUP

1. BERNARD GWERTZMAN OF NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED THAT U.S. AND JAPAN HAVE AGREED TO SEEK FORMULA TO AVOID CLASH OVER PRESIDENT CARTER'S NUCLEAR POLICY. AFTER TWO ROUNDS OF NEGOTIATIONS IN WASHINGTON, AMERICAN DELEGATION WILL FLY TO TOKYO, PROBABLY EARLY NEXT WEEK, FOR TALKS ON TECHNICAL FORMULA TO RESOLVE ISSUE, GWERTZMAN SAID. PROBLEM IS TO AGREE ON REPROCESSING SYSTEM THAT WILL NOT YIELD PURE PLUTONIUM WHICH COULD BE USED TO MAKE ATOMIC BOMB IN FEW WEEKS, GWERTZMAN POINTED OUT. "AMERICAN OFFICIALS SAID THEY BELIEVED JAPANESE WERE WILLING TO ACCEPT SO-CALLED 'COPROCESSING' OR 'PARTIAL COPROCESSING' METHOD, WHICH AVOIDS PRODUCTION OF PURE PLUTONIUM,' GWERTZMAN ADDED. HE SAID AMERICAN OFFICIALS EXPLAINED THIS METHOD WOULD BE COSTLY AND WOULD REQUIRE DELAY IN PUTTING REPROCESSING
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PLANT AT TOKAI-MURA INTO OPERATION. PLANT, BUILT WITH FRENCH ASSISTANCE, OTHERWISE READY TO BEGIN OPERATION.

2. FREDERIC A. MERITZ OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, IN DISPATCH FROM SEOUL, SAID QUESTION OF WHETHER SOUTH KOREA WILL BUILD NUCLEAR WEAPONS TO HELP COMPENSATE FOR WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. GROUND TROUPS DRAWING INCREASED ATTENTION

IN SOUTH KOREA AND JAPAN. QUESTION, HE SAID, UNDERSCORES "CONTINUING UNCERTAINTY OVER WHETHER PRESIDENT CARTER WILL LEAVE U.S. TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS BEHIND IN SOUTH KOREA OR EVEN ORDER USE IN KOREA, IF DEEMED NECESSARY, OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS BASED ELSEWHERE IN PACIFIC." OFFICIAL POSITION EXPRESSED BY FOREIGN MINISTER PARK TONG JIN IS THAT SOUTH KOREA HAS NO PRESENT PLANS FOR NUCLEAR ARMAMENT, MERITZ, NOTING, HOWEVER, THAT ANOTHER SENIOR OFFICIAL "POINTEDLY HINTS THAT POLICY COULD CHANGE, AND SOME SOUTH KOREAN SCIENTISTS ARE KNOWN TO BE URGING THEIR GOVERNMENT TO DEVELOP NUCLEAR MILITARY CAPABILITY." MONITOR CORRESPONDENT SAID SO FAR THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT SOUTH KOREANS ARE ATTEMPTING TO DEVELOP NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

3. ROSCOE DRUMMOND WRITING IN CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR SAID HAROLD M. AGNEW, DIRECTOR OF LOS ALAMOS SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTE "HAS QUIETLY DISCLOSED SOMETHING WHICH SEEMS BIZARRE BORDERING ON INCREDIBLE." AGNEW, CHAIRMAN OF ACDA'S GENERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SAID FROM BEGINNING OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION ON NUCLEAR ARMS, U.S. HAS BEEN PROVIDING FACTUAL INFORMATION ABOUT RANGE AND NUMBERS OF WEAPONS UNDER DISCUSSION WHILE SOVIETS REFUSE SUCH INFORMATION. "HOW ONE-SIDED CAN SUCH CRUCIAL NEGOTIATION BE ALLOWED TO BE?" DRUMMOND ASKED. HE SAID AGNEW "REVEALS THIS STRANGE STATE OF AFFAIRS IN THESE WORDS: 'TYPICALLY, ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS AT PRESENT ARE BASED SOLELY ON INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY U.S. USUALLY, SOVIET NEGOTIATORS REFER TO U.S. ESTIMATES OF NUMBER OF THEIR WEAPONS SYSTEMS, AND THEY REFER TO THEM BY NATO CODE UNCLASSIFIED

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NAMES.' DR. AGNEW DOESN'T LIKE THIS ONE BIT AND HE CONTENDS: 'SOVIETS SHOULD DISCUSS THEIR SYSTEMS, USING THEIR OWN TERMINOLOGY, NOT OURS. THEY SHOULD PROVIDE THEIR OWN NUMBERS -- WHETHER FORCE LEVELS, OR, WHEN APPROPRIATE, PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS.' I SHOULD THINK SO." DRUMMOND SAID AGNEW'S PICTURE OF SALT NEGOTIATING PROCEDURE IS CONTAINED IN MEMORANDUM PREPARED FOR WHITE HOUSE ON WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE TO STRENGTHEN VERIFICATION. EXTRACTS FROM AGNEW MEMO RECENTLY PUBLISHED IN AVIATION WEEKLY AND SPACE TECHNOLOGY. DRUMMOND SAID HE DISCUSSED AGNEW MEMO WITH ACDA OFFICIALS "AND THEY AGREED THAT HE DESCRIBES SITUATION ACCURATELY. THEY BELIEVE THIS PROCEDURE SHOULD NOT CONTINUE AND IN NEGOTIATIONS THUS FAR THIS YEAR THEY HAVE TAKEN POSITION THAT FACTUAL 'DATA BASE' MUST BE PROVIDED BY BOTH SIDES."

4. TAKASHI OKA, REPORTING FROM LONDON FOR CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, SAID SOVIET AND AMERICAN INTERESTS COINCIDE IN ONE IMPORTANT FIELD -- NONPROLIFERATION OF

NUCLEAR WEAPONS. "AT HUSH-HUSH NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS GROUP, WHICH MEETS TWO OR THREE TIMES YEAR," HE SAID, "U.S. AND SOVIET UNION HAVE OFTEN FOUND THEMSELVES ON SAME SIDE, THEIR STANDS OPPOSED OR QUESTIONED IN VARYING DEGREES BY BRITAIN, FRANCE, WEST GERMANY OR JAPAN." OKA SAID WITHIN GROUP THERE IS MOVEMENT TO "CAST OFF SHROUD OF SECRECY AND TO MAKE ITS PROCEEDINGS PUBLIC. SECRECY HAS BRED SUSPICION AND RESENTMENT AMONG POTENTIAL CUSTOMERS OF GROUP, SUCH AS BRAZIL, ARGENTINA, OR IRAN. IN FACT, SOME OBSERVERS SEE EMERGENCE OF RIVAL 'PERSEPOLIS CLUB' THAT WOULD BE BUILT AROUND THESE COUNTRIES AND OTHERS WHICH HELD CONFERENCE ON SUBJECT IN IRAN'S ANCIENT CAPITAL RECENTLY."

5. GODFREY SPERLING, JR. OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, REPORTING ON INTERVIEWS IN MIDWESTERN STATES WITH FARMERS, BUSINESS LEADERS AND OTHER "GRASS ROOT" CITIZENS, SAID "THERE ARE SOME WHO THINK THAT PRESIDENT MAY HAVE DAMAGED UNCLASSIFIED

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HIS OPPORTUNITY OF CONSUMMATING NUCLEAR ARMS CEILING OR ARMS REDUCTION AGREEMENT WITH SOVIETS BY MAKING COMMENTS THAT SOVIET LEADERS HAVE REGARDED AS MEDDLING IN THEIR INTERNAL AFFAIRS. BUT FAR AND AWAY STRONGEST CURRENT OF PUBLIC OPINION NOW SURFACING IS ONE THAT FINDS FAVOR WITH PRESIDENT IN HIS HUMAN RIGHTS POSITION AND OPEN WAY IN WHICH HE HAS DISCUSSED HIS CONCEPTS FOR BOTH ARMS AGREEMENTS WITH SOVIETS AND MIDEAST SETTLEMENT." CHRISTOPHER

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